

Remarks

Reconsideration and reexamination of the above-identified patent application, as amended, are respectfully requested. In this Amendment, the Applicant has amended claim 1 and cancelled claim 3. The Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitations of cancelled claim 3. Accordingly, claims 1-2, 4-7, and 9-10 are pending in this application upon entry of this Amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action mailed February 24, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,608,447 issued to Farry et al. ("Farry") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,559,955 issued to Dev et al. ("Dev"), U.S. Patent No. 5,513,171 issued to Ludwiczak et al. ("Ludwiczak"), U.S. Patent No. 5,519,830 issued to Opoczynski ("Opoczynski"), U.S. Patent No. 6,137,793 issued to Gorman et al. ("Gorman"), and U.S. Patent No. 5,761,602 issued to Wagner ("Wagner").

The Examiner rejected claims 4-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Farry, Dev, Ludwiczak, Opoczynski, Gorman and Wagner applied to claim 3, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,972,453 issued to Daniel, III ("Daniel").

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Farry in view of Dev, Ludwiczak, Opoczynski, Gorman, and Wagner.

Amended independent claim 1 recites, among other limitations,

"a fault manager having an alarm visualization tool operable with a HFC network manager and the SDI database for generating visual displays of the status and configuration of the elements and the customer-premises equipment of the subscribers; and

wherein the alarm visualization tool is a web-based graphics tool that includes a spatial database that relates alarm information from the HFC network manager with network

configuration data from the SDI database, geo-coded homes passed information, and landbased and spatial data.”

The cited references do not teach the foregoing limitations. In particular, as acknowledged by the Examiner, Farry, Dev, Ludwiczak, Opoczynski, Gorman, and Wagner fail to disclose a fault manager having an alarm visualization tool that is operable with the HFC network manager and the SDI database for generating visual displays of the status and configuration of the network elements and the customer-premises equipment of the subscribers based on the monitored status of the network elements and the customer-premises equipment and the data indicative of the configuration of the network elements and the customer-premises equipment. (Office Action, pages 11-12.) The Examiner does suggest, however, that Dev “further discloses a network management system that includes a fault manager (user interface 10) that visually displays the status and configuration of every device in the network and an alarm visualization tool....” (Office Action, page 12).

The Applicant respectfully submits that user interface 10 of Dev is merely a collection of peripheral devices that provide interaction with the user. As disclosed by Dev, user interface 10 includes “a video display screen, keyboard, mouse and printer....” (Column 3, lines 55-56). Thus, Dev does not teach or suggest an alarm visualization tool wherein the alarm visualization tool is a web-based graphics tool that includes a spatial database that relates alarm information from an HFC network manager with network configuration data from the SDI database, geo-code homes passed information, and landbased and spatial data. Moreover, there is no suggestion by Dev of an alarm visualization tool that has a *web-based graphics tool that includes a spatial database*. (Emphasis added). In fact, as taught by Dev, the user interface 10 (e.g., screen, keyboard and mouse) merely receives network information from a virtual network machine 12 for viewing by the user. (Column 3, lines 59-61; column 5, lines 14-16.) As such, throughout the disclosure of Dev, there is no suggestion or teaching of an alarm visualization tool that has a web-based graphics tool that includes a spatial database. As discussed above, Farry, Ludwiczak, Opoczynski, Gorman, and Wagner do not cure the deficiencies of Dev.

Therefore, the Applicant believes that amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Farry, Dev, Ludwiczak, Opoczynski, Gorman, Wagner, and Daniel. Claims 2, 4-7, and 9-10 depend from amended independent claim 1 and include the limitations thereof. Thus, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to claims 1-2, 4-7, and 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

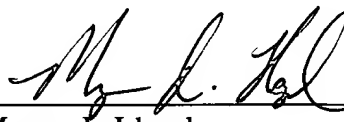
With respect to claims 4-7, which depend from claim 1, the addition of Daniel, does not render claims 4-7 obvious. Thus, claims 4-7 are believed to be patentable over 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of the cited prior art. As such, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to claims 4-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

CONCLUSION

In summary, claims 1-2, 4-7 and 9-10, as amended, meet the substantive requirements for patentability. The case is in appropriate condition for allowance. Accordingly, such action is respectfully requested. If a telephone or video conference would expedite allowance or resolve any further questions, such a conference is invited at the convenience of the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

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